

House Resolution 138

By: Representatives Shannon of the 84th, Nguyen of the 89th, Bruce of the 61st, Hugley of the 136th, Stephenson of the 90th, and others

A RESOLUTION

1 Urging the federal government to oversee election changes in Georgia under the Voting
2 Rights Act of 1965; and for other purposes.

3 WHEREAS, Georgia has a long and well-recognized history of discriminating against
4 minority voters; and

5 WHEREAS, Section 5 of the federal Voting Rights Act of 1965, as amended, required
6 Georgia to seek "preclearance" from the federal government before any changes were made
7 to its election practices or procedures because of its history of racial discrimination; and

8 WHEREAS, Georgia received more than 170 preclearance objection letters during the nearly
9 50 years Section 5 was in effect; and

10 WHEREAS, Georgia has instituted a host of restrictive measures designed to suppress the
11 minority vote, including the purging of over one million "inactive" voters from voter
12 registration rolls, strict requirements for voter identification, and the closing or relocation of
13 more than 300 polling locations; all of which disproportionately affect voters of color; and

14 WHEREAS, under its aggressive "exact match" policy, which allows the state to reject a
15 voter registration application if applicant information does not exactly match state and
16 federal records down to a single hyphen or space, Georgia froze over 50,000 voter
17 registration applications before the 2018 election alone; an overwhelmingly large majority
18 of which were from minority voters; and

19 WHEREAS, versions of this discriminatory "exact match" policy were twice rejected when
20 Georgia was subject to preclearance; and

21 WHEREAS, minority voters in Georgia face a number of additional barriers to voting,
22 including insecure election systems, improperly rejected and untimely absentee ballots, and
23 long lines at polling places due to inadequate resources.

24 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES that
25 and directed the members of this body urge the federal government to once again require
26 Georgia to seek pre-approval of any changes in its elections in order to prevent the state from
27 implementing policies that discriminate against voters of color.

28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Clerk of the House of Representatives is authorized
29 to make an appropriate copy of this resolution available for distribution to the President Pro
30 Tempore of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of
31 Representatives, the United States Attorney General, and each member of Congress from
32 Georgia.